

# THE MARSHALL ISLANDS REGISTRY

## STEADFAST QUALITY UNMATCHED SERVICE

Some flags like to talk quality, but the Marshall Islands Registry consistently performs. The record speaks for itself.

Choose to fly the world's quality flag.



International Registries, Inc. in association with the Marshall Islands Maritime & Corporate Administration

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The RMI became the second largest registry in the world in May 2017, breaking the 60 year duopoly of Liberia and Panama.

Comparison of Fleet Gross Tons (GT)*			
	PANAMA	RMI	LIBERIA
BLUEWATER	218.7	153.4	153.7
OFFSHORE	9.9	9.3	5.8
TOTAL GT	228.6	162.4	159.5

\* In million gross tons

Source: Clarkson's World Fleet Statistics, January 2018 and Clarkson's Corporate Intelligence Monthly, 30 January 2018.

Only Major Open Registry  
Whitelisted on All Major MoUs  
and Qualship 21 Certified

USCG Qualship 21 Flag State Comparison			
	RMI	LIBERIA	PANAMA
2018	✓	X	X
2017	✓	X	X
2016	✓	X	X
2015	✓	✓	X
2014	✓	✓	X
2013	✓	✓	X
2012	✓	✓	X
2011	✓	✓	X
2010	✓	X	X
2009	✓	X	X
2008	✓	X	X
2007	✓	X	X
2006	✓	✓	X
2005	✓	X	X

\* X = YES, ✓ = YES

			3 Year Detention Ratio 2015-2017
USCG	Marshall Islands		0.71%
	Liberia		1.40%
	Panama		1.50%
Paris MoU	Marshall Islands		1.69%
	Liberia		2.66%
	Panama		5.47%
Tokyo MoU	Marshall Islands		2.22%
	Liberia		3.19%
	Panama		3.36%

			2017 Detentions
AMSA	Marshall Islands		4.00%
	Liberia		6.30%
	Panama		5.90%
China	Marshall Islands		3.34%
	Liberia		5.98%
	Panama		7.02%

\* The Qualship 21 certification is a voluntary certification for shipowners to demonstrate that their detention ratio is below 1.40% and 1.40% are not automatically excluded from the list and are subject to the Qualship 21 certification.

Source: USCG 2017 Rating to the IMO's International Ship and Port State Supervision.

30 January 2019 News category: Industry Insight

# MSG Meeting Focuses on Strategy, Communication, and Technological Innovation



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry's Maritime Services Group (MSG) held its first meeting of 2019 at International Registries, Inc.'s (IRI's) Ft. Lauderdale, Florida office. The January 2019 MSG meeting focused on the strategic development of the organization, including effective internal communication, particularly from the regions about local owner/operator concerns, and efficient customer

service. Leadership training was held on the last day of the meeting which was led by two representatives of HR Consulting from Spinnaker Global. More than 45 representatives attended the meeting from offices in Baltimore, Busan, Dubai, Fort Lauderdale, Geneva, Hong Kong, Houston, Rio, Roosendaal, London, Long Beach, Majuro, Mumbai, New York, Piraeus, Reston, and Shanghai.

IRI has focused the last several years on building technology resources in its 28 offices while also promoting strong relationships between the offices for unified and effective service delivery. No international shipping operation can afford to be inconvenienced or have vessels delayed because their flag State does not have an office open or a representative available that can immediately

address the customer's needs. These MSG meetings are a means to strategize with worldwide personnel and develop more efficient ways to support the RMI Registry's client base. All worldwide regions maintain technical and marine safety resources to provide local responses to operational inquiries. These are important coordination meetings to ensure the RMI serves as the world's local flag, providing RMI flagged vessels with a fast and high-quality service.



20 January 2019 News category: Latest News, Registry Update Tagged With: MSG

# IRI/The Marshall Islands Registry hosts Kiev Seminar on RMI Associations Law and Yacht Code

IRI/The Marshall Islands Registry organized a successful seminar in November at the Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kiev, Ukraine to discuss the RMI Associations Law and the RMI Yacht Code. This seminar was a unique event for the Ukrainian market and attracted professionals from the maritime and corporate business communities.

Patrick Bachofner, Director, IRI's Geneva Office;  
Susanne Andersson, Deputy Director, IRI's Zurich Office;  
and Serhii Yakubovskyi, Special Agent Assistant from  
Forttrade, Ukraine, spoke at the seminar and covered  
the following topics:



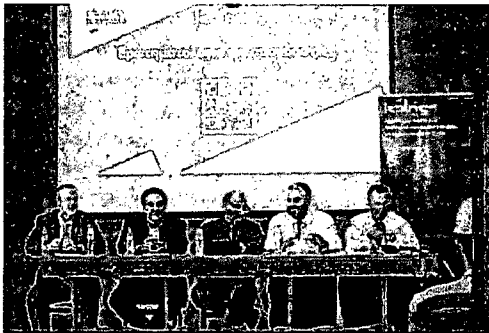
- Overview of the Marshall Islands Yacht Program
- The Marshall Islands Corporate Registry Program
- Procedure of Formation and Document Structure of the RMI International Business Corporations

The speakers discussed the quality service provided by the RMI Maritime and Corporate Registries and the opportunities that the RMI programs offer to industry stakeholders.



15 January 2019 News category: Corporate, Industry Involvement, Registry Update, Yachts

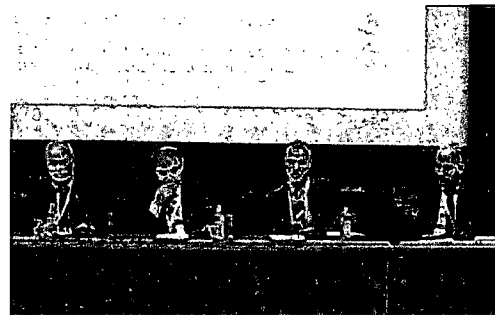
# Supporting Educational Initiatives in Greece



IRI/The Marshall Islands Registry is proud to support Isalos.net and its educational initiative of Greece. Isalos.net aims to link the shipping community to the next generation, while also being a platform for providing information and experiences of the maritime industry and naval everyday life.

Isalos.net hosted four conferences in 2018, which attracted nearly 2,000 maritime academy students and officers. These conferences covered topics such as: the opportunities and challenges of the modern merchant marine, the challenges of the Bridge and Engine Room, health and everyday life on board vessel, and safety and risk management on board.

Captain Theodore Lalas, Fleet Operations Manager in the Registry's Piraeus office, participated as a panelist at two of the conferences. He discussed the purpose, structure, and procedures of a ship registry. Captain Lalas also discussed the quality service that sets the RMI Registry apart, which has led to success in the Greek market and worldwide. Captain Lalas was joined on the panels by executives of the largest Greek shipping companies. Panel discussions were very engaging, with students asking more than 140 questions at the Athens conference.



The Registry is proud to work with educational initiatives in Greece and around the world to help educate students about opportunities in our industry.

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10 January 2019 News category: Industry Involvement

# Radio Interview with Theofilos Xenakoudis

Theofilos Xenakoudis, Managing Director of the IRI Piraeus office and Director, Worldwide Business Operations was interviewed by Gina Panayiotou on "It's ALL about Shipping." Hear what he has to say on the vision and activities of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Registry and listen as he shares his experiences and discusses business sustainability.



Gina PanLb

It's ALL About Shipping\_Theofilos Xenakoudis, Worldwid...

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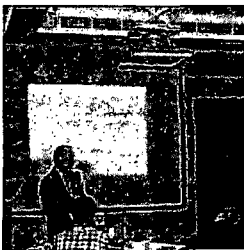
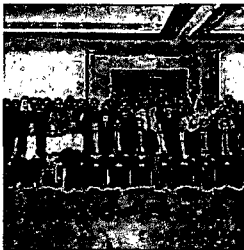
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"It's ALL about Shipping" is a radio show, hosted on the community radio station of the Cyprus University of Technology and primarily aims in discussing various topics which affect our industry, as well as in inspiring/empowering the youth of shipping. The show has been running for more than two years and the concept founder and host of this initiative is Gina Panayiotou, Head of Shipping at Michael Kyprianou & Co. LLC. Various industry professionals are interviewed on a weekly basis, from the local and international cluster, aiming in establishing awareness on how everything revolves around this industry, from the coffee we drink in the morning to natural gas, it is ALL about shipping!

19 December 2018 News category: Industry Involvement, Latest News

# Senior Officers Training Seminar in Cyprus

We were proud to attend and present at the Chartworld Shipping Corporation/ VShips Cyprus Senior Officers Training Seminar held on 16 November 2018 in Limassol, Cyprus. 50 senior officers, including Masters, Chief Officers, Chief Engineers, and Second Engineers attended the seminar. IRI's Capt Theodore Lalas presented to the group on the topic of port State control (PSC) inspections and the role of the flag State, as well as on how to avoid or rectify common deficiencies.



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29 November 2018 News category: Industry Involvement.

## Focusing On Seafarer Well-Being



**(L-R) Captain Ashley Cooper (Scorpio Ship Management s.a.m.), Rear Admiral Kevin Cook (Panel Moderator), Sandra Welch (Sailors' Society), Mike Bradshaw (V.Ships), Stuart Edmonston (UK P&I Club), Sarah Honebon (Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering)**

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry hosted a panel discussion regarding "*Seafarer Welfare – Critical from Every Perspective*" in London on 8 November. Rear Admiral Kevin Cook (retired), a consultant to International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), chaired the event. The panel discussed how issues as diverse as on-board internet access through to nutritional programs can improve the well-being of the global seafaring workforce. The panel included representatives from Scorpio Ship Management s.a.m, V.Ships, the UK P&I Club, the Sailors' Society, and the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering.

One of the biggest challenges discussed by the panellists is ensuring seafarers' mental well-being. Despite numerous company strategies and a global network of charities working to improve life at sea and support seafarers, there has been a rise in the number of seafarer suicides in recent years. Seafaring has never been an easy profession and homesickness and loneliness are not new phenomena. Being far from home and in a confined environment can mean that an individual may feel overwhelmed and isolated. But help is there.



**Captain Ashley Cooper, Marine  
Director at Scorpio Ship Management  
s.a.m.**

Ship manager V.Ships is responsible for over 30,000 seafarers and earlier this year launched a Health & Wellbeing Program. Mike Bradshaw, V.Ships' Global Head of HS&E, explained that V.Ships has recognized the importance of providing a wholistic wellness program and is moving forward with a program to look at everything which might improve seafarers' well-being. The company is in the process of installing defibrillators on board 350 vessels, focused on the nutritional aspects of its catering plan, and has developed a health and wellbeing e-learning module for all of its seafarers. There are also plans to launch a 24-hour

helpline.

Much of the debate centred on the positive and negative aspects of internet access on-board ships. An increasing number of ships now provide its crews with ready access to the internet, allowing the crew to stay in touch with home and the wider world.

Stuart Edmonston, Loss Prevention Director at the UK P&I Club, commented on how access to the internet in isolated personal spaces is not always a positive development. Recalling his own recent reaction to the news that his young daughter had fallen and hurt herself just before he took part in a meeting, he said, "hearing from my wife that my 3-year old had taken a fall, my mind wasn't really on the meeting at all; what impact might bad news from back home have on someone about to take the watch?" He recommended that communal areas should have wi-fi access to ensure that crew members were able to talk to others about news from home.

“

Greater focus on communal activities are vital to improve  
seafarers' well-being

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Captain Ashley Cooper, Marine Director at Scorpio Ship Management s.a.m., said that his company had a set number of hours a day during which internet access was granted to crew members in order to bring them out of their cabins and promote greater socialization among them. He noted that the Master always has the authority to increase the access period to allow someone to communicate with family in times of need.

Limiting internet access is for some a controversial practice, and one audience member said that all seafarers should be treated like adults with unrestricted access granted. V.Ships said that it does not restrict internet access aboard its managed ships.

All however agreed that a greater focus on communal activities are vital to improve seafarers' well-being.

The event was one of a series of topical meetings held in shipping centers around the world and organized by the RMI Registry.



27 November 2018 News category: Industry Involvement

# Republic of the Marshall Islands Participates in Crew Training Seminar



Republic of the Marshall Islands Registry personnel attended the Springfield Shipping Officers Forum held on 9 November 2018 in Athens, Greece.

Seminar attendees consisted of about 40 senior officers, including Masters, Chief Officers, Chief Engineers, and Second Engineers.

Capt John Sideris and Capt Theodore Lalas, International Registries, Inc. (IRI), presented to the group on the topic of port State control (PSC) inspections and the role of the flag State, as well as on how to avoid or rectify common deficiencies.

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14 November 2018 News category: Industry Involvement, Port State Control

## IRI at CrewConnect Global



**IRI Manila team with (front L-R): Allan Cabantog, Seafarers' Documentation Manager, Capt. Robert Fay, SVP-Maritime Operations and Leo Bolivar, Country Manager**

International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI) joined more than 600 crewing professionals at CrewConnect Global last week (5-7 November) in Manilla, the Philippines, to discuss global manpower issues for the shipping industry.

Capt. Robert Fay, IRI's Senior Vice President, Maritime Operations, joined a panel looking at a wide range of issues impacting crewing. The debate centred on the pressing need to modernize current International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions and regulations to meet the requirements of the ships of the future. Earlier this year, the IMO established a correspondence group on autonomous shipping, with the group expected to report back to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) 100 in early December.

Also on the conference agenda was discussion on gender in shipping and the need for increased diversification to meet future crewing demands especially in the passenger ship sector.

The need to attract more women into the shipping industry was underlined by Captain Maria Javellina who spoke at the conference. Captain Javellina is the first Filipina to command a Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) registered ship. She told the attendees, which included senior shipowner representatives, of her belief that the industry needs to encourage and recruit more women as merchant marine officers.

With a growing awareness of mental health issues in the maritime industry, finding ways to recognize seafarer depression and prevent suicides and serious accidents was also discussed at length during the conference.

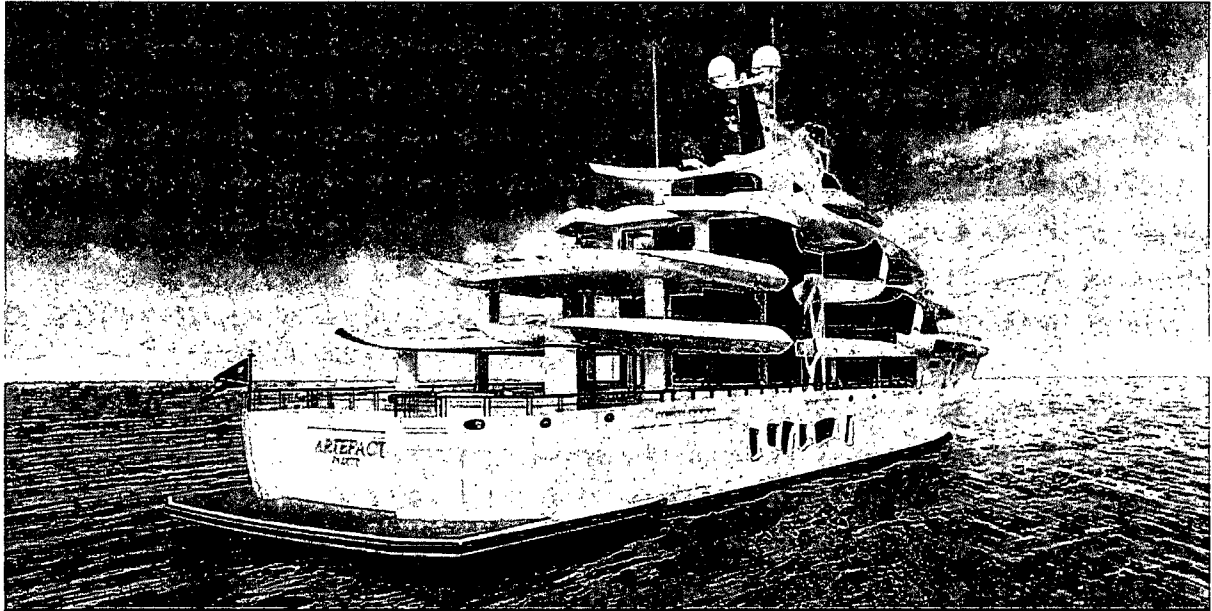
IRI is a sponsor of the CrewConnect Global event, which is a leading three-day conference for marine human resources professionals.



**Drinks Reception at the Crew Connect Global 2018, (L-R): Chona Villanos, President, Klaveness Shore Services Inc., Judith Jarabelo, General Manager, Klaveness Maritime Agency, Inc., Faith Joy Adelantar, Owner's Rep. – Damen Marine Services, Capt. Robert Fay, SVP-Maritime Operations, IRI, Atty. Daphne Ruby Grasparil, Partner, Veralaw, Leo Bolivar, Country Manager, IRI Manila and Jessie Pana, Recruitment Manager, Wagenborg Manila, Inc.**

13 November 2018 News category: Industry Involvement

# Building And Flagging ARTEFACT



Something very special will soon be floating out of Nobiskrug. The north German shipyard, famous for groundbreaking superyachts including SAILING YACHT A and ODESSA II, is building a breathtaking yacht designed to push the boundaries of what is possible with glass at sea. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Yacht Registry has overseen its construction and will be flagging it.

ARTEFACT, which until recently was simply known as "Project 790," was named at the 2018 Monaco Yacht Show and has already aroused a good deal of interest. The superyacht will be a striking 80 meter (m) yacht constructed with a very high proportion of glass, bristling with unique environmentally friendly features. It will contain solar panels and a battery storage system, enabling the vessel to operate for a limited time without internal combustion engines; an electric pod propulsion and dynamic positioning system designed to hold the yacht's position without the need to drop anchor; and its waste water can be used as technical water.

**//** We think the RMI Yacht Registry adds value to the entire project and helps the owner protect and future-proof this investment **//**

Built for an owner who wants to minimize the yacht's impact on the environment, the DC diesel-electric hybrid-powered ARTEFACT will be ready in 2019.

International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the RMI Yacht Registry, have been involved with the innovative project from the outset, working with the yard, the owner's representative, Captain Aaron T. Clark, and Lloyd's Register (LR).

A superyacht of this caliber pushes the boundaries of what is possible in design. But how does a yacht registry ensure that a new breed of yacht is both safe and at the same time meets the aspirations of its ambitious owner?

According to Captain Clark, flag State choice was a critical decision made at the very start of the project.

"When we chose the yard, we wanted a partner that would not water down our plans and could build a safe yacht that could travel the world as well as hold its value. We also needed a flag State with an understanding of us and an understanding of yachts. We think the RMI Yacht Registry adds value to the entire project and helps the owner protect and future-proof this investment."



**Captain Aron Clark and Patrick Bachofner**

Work on the project has been underway for several years, ever since the owner commissioned Captain Clark to help him manage the entire process of designing and building his dream superyacht. Once complete, Captain Clark will command the vessel as it sails around the world.

After one and a half years of looking at concepts and ideas, the team settled on a design and tank-tested it. A timber and builder paper concept interior, featuring everything from lounges to cabins through to the galley, was built inside a factory for the owner and his family to see with their own eyes how the yacht would actually look. Critically, they were able to get a sense of each room's proportions. A specification was then prepared for the yards to provide their proposals. From a shortlist of three, Nobiskrug was selected. Captain Clark advises anyone commissioning a yacht of this class to "build bigger than you think and build for 15 years into the future."

### **Glass features**

The most striking feature about this yacht is the sheer amount of glass used; 760 square meters (m<sup>2</sup>) of glass comprising 227 pieces, only up to 94 millimeters (mm) thick but weighing a total of 70 tons, have gone into the vessel. To offset this weight, the vessel's superstructure is made of glass reinforced plastic (fiberglass). Using a composite superstructure has enabled beautiful curved shapes to be moulded. While the deck to ceiling glass is visually appealing, the challenge is to ensure that the yacht's superstructure strength is not affected.

The IRI team, in close collaboration with LR, scrutinized the plans carefully to ensure that the material met the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulations and was structurally sound.

"When hearing about the amount of glass proposed, it would have been easy to have just said no and not take the time to examine these plans carefully," says Marc Verburg, Fleet Operations Manager, Yachts, from IRI's Roosendaal office. "However, this glass is stronger than steel and we worked hard to find a suitable regulatory solution. Lloyd's Register conducted factory and ultrasound tests and we are happy with the use of glass on this project."

ARTEFACT is not however a yacht passed with numerous special notices and exemptions. It has met all of the RMI's standard requirements.

### **Future-proof**

From Captain Clark's point of view, building a yacht which is future-proof from regulatory change is critical. While ARTEFACT meets the new International Maritime Organization (IMO) Tier III low emissions regulations for yachts, working with the RMI means that he is confident that there will not be unexpected changes in the near future.



**Meeting at Nobiskrug**

"The product is not actually the yacht, it's the guest experience," explains Captain Clark. "We're offering an elevated level of experience and use design to trigger an emotional reward."

That's why flag, yard, Class, and owner need to work closely together to achieve a result that delivers a beautiful, but safe, yacht. By overseeing the yacht's construction, Captain Clark is gaining an insight into every detail of the vessel and will eventually be running a yacht built to anticipate the guests' and crew's needs.

Patrick Bachofner, Director, Business Development, based in IRI's Geneva office, believes that the success of the yacht team in this very demanding sector is its decentralized core group.

"We have a small yacht team in Geneva, Roosendaal, and Ft. Lauderdale, backed up by the support of the much wider shipping group of the world's second largest ship registry. This means that our team has a support network of experts in every imaginable field of shipping. But most importantly, we have an enthusiastic philosophy and are truly interested in what's happening on our yachts."

The RMI Yacht Registry's involvement with the yacht does not end once it is completed. Once operational, the team is available to handle any potential issues with port State control, issue crew documentation, handle mandatory inspections, and provide necessary documents and advice on any regulatory related issue. ARTEFACT will be a privately registered yacht that will be run as a commercial yacht, giving the owner flexibility, should he need it.

Captain Clark says that he found working with the RMI team surprisingly simple.

"Both the Marshall Islands and Lloyd's Register offered us the continuity of people over the build stage. They have the pedigree of understanding needed to make this ambitious project work. Most

importantly, I've never had to call the owner and say 'Sir, your vision has been compromised' because of something that the flag State has said."

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11 October 2018 News category: Yachts Tagged With: Superyachts



## Free Is Not Free

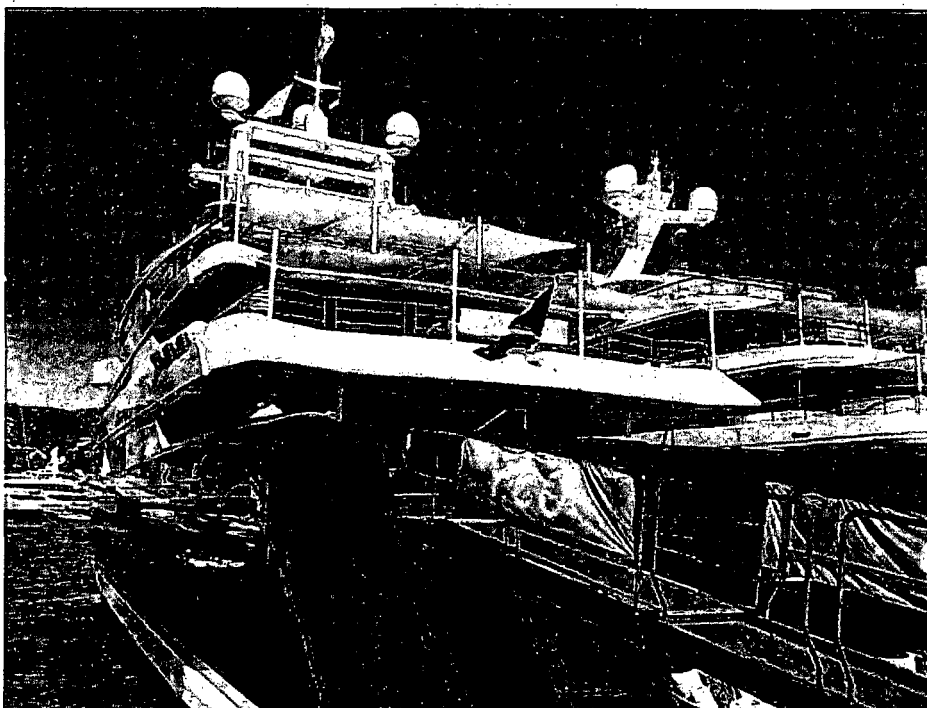
Over the past days, we have had discussions with several of the major Classification Societies (Class) concerning flag State surcharges on the issuance of Class documents and statutory certificates. Through these discussions we have learned that Liberia has now joined Panama, Belize, and Honduras in the practice of adding a flag State surcharge to the Class fees for such certificates.

We affirm to our shipowners, shipoperators, and Recognized Organizations that the Republic of the Marshall Islands Registry has no intention of following suit. In the very competitive world of ship registration, the terminology "free" is used loosely. We are determined to remain transparent. Owners can rest assured they will only be responsible for agreed and published fees with no back door or hidden surcharges.

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8 October 2018 News category: Uncategorized

## Making A Splash At The Monaco Yacht Show 2018



**ILLUSION PLUS is the largest ever Asian built yacht and is RMI flagged**

One of the biggest events on the yachting calendar is the annual Monaco Yacht Show, with 30,000 buyers, industry professionals, and yachting enthusiasts gathering to do business and admire some of the world's biggest and most beautiful yachts.

This year, 121 superyachts over

25 meters (m) in length, worth a collective EUR 3 billion, were on display. According to the show organizers, the yachts at this year's edition were bigger than ever before with an average length of 51.5 m, compared to an average length of 49.5 m for the last three editions.

International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Yacht Registry, sent experts from its Yacht Team from its Fort Lauderdale, Geneva, and Roosendaal offices to visit the show, run seminars, meet clients, and promote the flag.

This year, six RMI flagged yachts were on display at the show, including ILLUSION PLUS, which at 88 m is the largest ever yacht to be built by an Asian yard. The ILLUSION PLUS was also the winner of the prestigious Monaco Yacht Show award for best interior design. The show also saw the announcement of next year's launch of ARTEFACT, an innovative eco-friendly superyacht currently being built at Nobiskrug in Germany and flagged in the RMI.

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The superyacht industry just keeps growing and we pride ourselves on being an innovator in this exciting sector

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The week began with a meeting and training session for RMI Appointed Representatives (ARs). There are around 100 yacht inspections undertaken by the network of 14 RMI ARs every year and ensuring the same high levels of consistency around the world is critical.

"The flag's yacht fleet has a low incident rate and good port State control record," commented Marc Verburg, Fleet Operations Manager, Yachts from IRI's Roosendaal office. "A big part of this is due to our ARs' in-depth regulatory knowledge as well as their dedication to keep the RMI yacht fleet safe and protect the marine environment."



**IRI yacht team and ARs in Monaco**

On the same day as the AR meeting, around 200 industry professionals attended a reception at the Marine Money Superyacht Finance Forum at the Café de Paris. The reception, sponsored by IRI, followed an interesting day of topical discussion.

Highlights included a close look at leasing schemes, value-added tax (VAT) exemptions for commercial yachts, and VAT rules in yacht construction contracts.

The RMI's Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET) initiative enables 24 m plus private yachts carrying no more than 12 passengers to charter for up to 84 days per calendar year in French and Monegasque waters.

IRI's locally based Yachting Advisor, Alexander von Stein, spoke at the Captain's Forum at the Monaco Yacht Club on the RMI's YET initiative. The Forum, which is open to those qualified with a Captain 500 Certificate (or equivalent), has more than 120 members.



**The RMI Yacht Registry has been involved with the construction of the innovative ARTEFACT at Nobiskrug**

Alexander von Stein told the audience that the YET framework had originally been innovated by the RMI and was now also being promoted by the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry.

He said that it is now "up to the industry to expand it." The YET initiative has proved beneficial for both yacht owners and tax authorities in France and Monaco and the challenge is to expand its range to other European countries. Throughout the show, IRI clients and business partners were able to meet the Yacht Team at a hospitality suite.

Summing up the week, Patrick Bachofner, Director, Business Development at IRI's Geneva office said, "this was a very successful week for the team and another packed show; the superyacht industry just keeps growing and we pride ourselves on being an innovator in this exciting sector."

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6 October 2018 News category: Yachts Tagged With: Yachts

# Interactive Seminar For Republic Of The Marshall Islands Appointed Representatives



**Interactive learning in Monaco for RMI ARs attended by NautX, Mark Robinson Maritime Consultants, Azure, and UMS**

An important part of the work of any flag administration is ensuring that its network of Appointed Representatives (ARs) inspects to the same high standards and deals with deficiencies in a consistent way. International Registries, Inc. and its affiliates (IRI), which provide administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Yacht Registry, used the annual Monaco Yacht Show as an opportunity to bring members of its AR network up to speed on the latest amendments to the RMI Yacht Code and new regulations.

Led by Marc Verburg, Fleet Operations Manager, Yachts from IRI's Roosendaal office, with important contributions from Peter Chesla, Safety & Technical Manager, Yachts from Fort Lauderdale, and Rene van der Voort, Safety & Technical Manager, Yachts from Roosendaal, the two-day seminar also provided interactive training for the ARs. A series of safety and pollution related scenarios was brought to each ARs attention, with the AR using the collective expertise of the group to come up with a response and decide whether or not the yacht was deficient.

"The idea is to ensure that there is consistency across our network," explains Marc Verburg. "We have high expectations of our ARs who conduct around 100 inspections every year. The interactive training method was highly successful, leading to debate and discussion around the room."

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6 October 2018 News category: Yachts Tagged With: Yachts

# Marshall Islands Registry's Maritime Services Group Meeting Highlights Local Maritime Support



**First Row (from left to right):** Patrick Horan (Baltimore), Luiz Freitas (Rio), RADM Robert North (Consultant), Liz Bouchard (London), Joe McKeown (Ft. Lauderdale), Richard Dias (Hong Kong), and Michael Worch (Reston). **Second Row (from left to right):** Peter Feild (Reston), Tony Guida (Reston), Naresh Santram (Reston), Cosmin Bozenovici (Houston), Laura Sherman (Reston), David Cummins (Reston), Tom Blenk (Busan), John Taverner (London), and Michael Wu (Reston). **Third Row (from left to right):** Vasilis Kamitsis (Piraeus), Theo Xenakoudis (Piraeus), John Ramage (London), Bill Gallagher (Reston), Meredith Kirby (Reston), Simon Bonnett (London), John Gallagher (Reston), Scott Sisk (Reston), and Bob Fay (Reston). **Fourth Row (from left to right):** Tom Heinan (Reston), Jonathan Maiorine (Baltimore), Hans Molver (Reston), Charles McHardy (Houston), Dave Wamsley (New York (Downtown)), Michael Timmons (Reston), Aidan O'Donnell (London), Rob Lorigan (Reston), and Brian Poskaitis (Baltimore).

Last week saw the last meeting for 2018 of the Maritime Services Group (MSG) at International Registries, Inc.'s (IRI's) global headquarters in Reston, VA. Pulling together resources from 28 worldwide offices, these regular meetings, the third one this year, provide an opportunity for IRI's international network of offices to update each other on the latest developments, share technical

knowledge, provide regional updates, and discuss future innovation. A large part of the success of IRI and its ability to provide exemplary administrative and technical support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry is due to its decentralized model and international network of experts.

The results presented during the meeting reflected the true decentralization of the RMI Registry noting that regional offices outside of the United States are now responsible for issuing more than 70% of the requested seafarer documents and over 90% of the vessel registrations that take place worldwide. Furthermore, worldwide technical support is not only inclusive with registration costs but also timely since all regions have technical resources available to respond to inquiries. These are important statistics as they mean that industry stakeholders who have vessels flagged in the RMI Registry are receiving faster and better service worldwide. No international shipping operation can afford to be delayed because their flag State does not have an office open or an office open that cannot immediately address the customer's needs.

Relationships are important in this business not only externally but also internally. These meetings ensure there is more effective communication from the regions about their local owner/operator concerns and there is a unified approach in addressing them. Made up of a network of 28 offices in key maritime and financial hubs, IRI has helped ensure the RMI fleet has a low port State control detention record and delivers a customer-first approach to the discerning shipowners and operators who choose to flag with the RMI.

25 September 2018 News category: Registry Update



# RMI Now Recognizes Green Award Ships



*From left to right: Captain Dimitrios Mattheou, Theo Xenakoudis, Jan Fransen*

Green Award certified ships registered in the RMI Registry will now enjoy a 30% discount on their annual marine services fee. The Green Award is a voluntary international certification scheme for ships that go beyond the industry's regulations in terms of safety, quality, and environmental performance.

The initiative was announced at a ceremony in Athens on 11 September.

Green Award Chairman, Captain Dimitrios Mattheou, and Executive Director, Jan Fransen, presented a Green Award plaque to Theo Xenakoudis, Director, Worldwide Business Operations, IRI.

Captain Mattheou called this cooperation a huge step in the direction of an environmentally conscious and safe maritime industry of the future.

"Striking a balance between economically sound and environmentally and socially responsible shipping is of paramount importance. That's a task for the entire maritime community. By supporting Green Award, the RMI Registry joins the frontrunners of the industry actively taking measures to reduce their ecological footprint and encourage improvement of safety," continued Captain Mattheou.

"Age is often an indicator of a greener fleet, and the RMI fleet is the youngest of any of the top 10 registries. We have always aimed to make our fleet environmentally friendly and so we are pleased to see that more than 16% of Green Award vessels are RMI flagged. The RMI has also maintained its Qualship 21 status for 14 consecutive years and, in addition, more than 28% of the United States Coast Guard's E-Zero designation vessels are RMI flagged. It is noteworthy to see that so many RMI owners and operators are going beyond the industry's standard for environmental performance measures," said Mr. Xenakoudis.

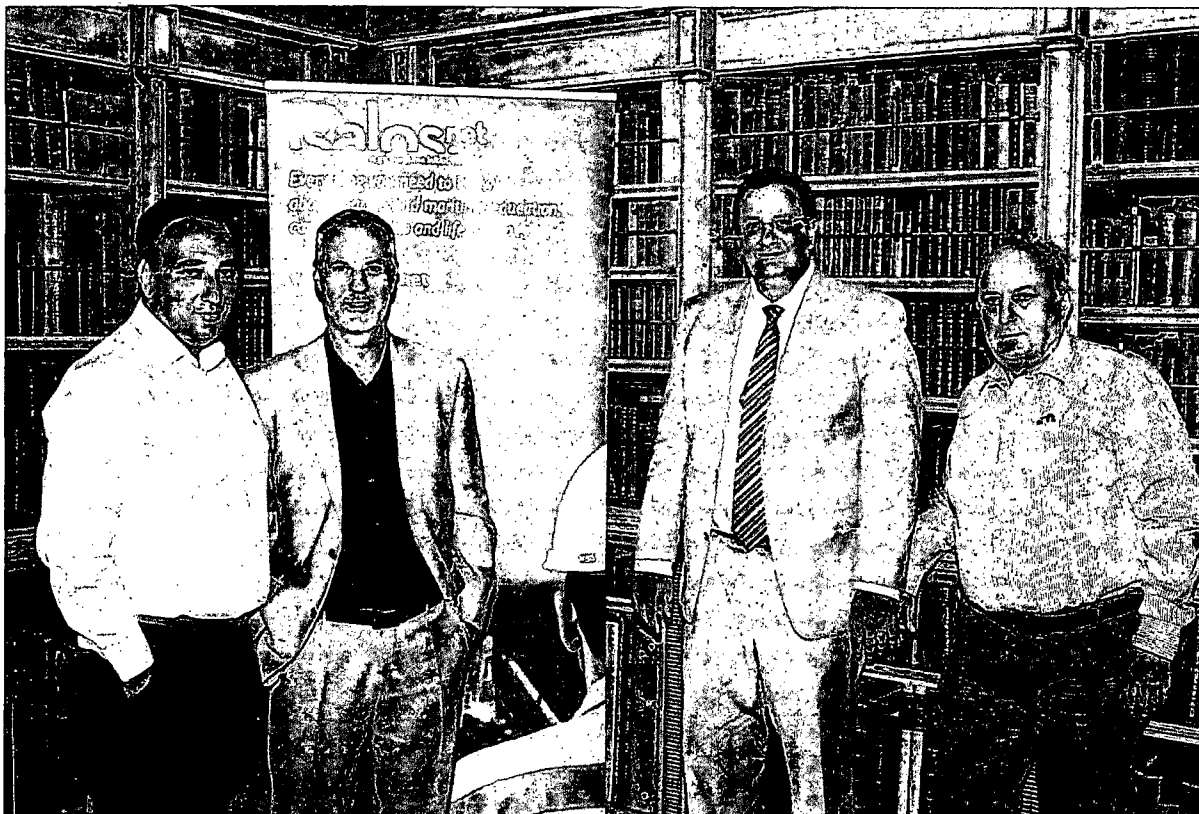
Owners and operators interested in learning more about the RMI Registry's new incentive for Green Award certified vessels can email [greenaward@register-iri.com](mailto:greenaward@register-iri.com).

For further details of Green Award, visit [www.greenaward.org](http://www.greenaward.org).

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12 September 2018 News category: Industry Involvement, Registry Update

## The Marshall Islands Registry Participates in Isalos.net Summer Seminar Series



**Mr. Evangelos Sfakiotakis, Technical Manager, TMS Tankers Ltd.; Captain Theodore Lalas, Fleet Operations Manager, IRI; Mr. Stylianos Bellas, Commodore, Hellenic Cost Guard; Captain Spyros Vlachos, Shipping Manager, Carras (Hellas) S.A.**

The Marshall Islands Registry is a proud supporter of the [Isalos.net](#) educational initiative and its events. Most recently, the [Isalos.net](#) initiative organized a series of summer seminars for over 90 merchant marine students and young officers, as well as the students of maritime universities and young maritime executives.

The six educational seminars took place at the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation in Piraeus, Greece and covered a wide range of topics, including: main dry and wet commodities; cargo routes and operation of vessels; chartering and charter party agreements; environmental regulations and safety on board; the human element; vetting procedures; and the legal framework in shipping, including the flag registration process.

On Monday, 23 July 2018, Captain Theodore Lalas, Fleet Operations Manager, IRI, participated in an Isalos.net summer seminar, presenting the students with information about the purpose, structure, and procedures of a ship registry. Captain Lalas also gave some background about the Marshall Islands Registry and discussed the quality service that sets the Registry apart and has led to its success in the Greek market and worldwide.

A more detailed recap of the event and topics from the summer seminar can be found here (in Greek only, an English translation is not available).

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20 August 2018 News category: Uncategorized